

2010

Faculty Senate Minutes, January 20, 2010

Faculty Senate
Eastern Michigan University

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UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MINUTES – MEETING EIGHT

January 20, 2010, 3 – 5 p.m.

310 Student Center

www.emich.edu/facultysenate faculty_senate@emich.edu 487-0196

I. Approval of the Agenda

Daryl Barton moved and David Crary seconded the motion to approve the agenda. It was approved unanimously.

II. Approval of the Minutes of January 6, 2010

David Crary moved and Perry Francis seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved with four abstentions (21 – 0 – 4).

III. Continuous Improvement of Administrators – Margrit Zinggeler and Joe Scazzero

EMU has a site license for SNAP, but Survey Monkey with encryption is the better software for the faculty evaluation of administrators. The cost is modest and can be shared between Faculty Senate and the provost's office. This academic year's evaluation will be of the deans of the colleges.

IV. News from EMU-AAUP – Susan Moeller and Ken Rusiniak

A. Updating the Contract

With the change of name from Faculty Council to Faculty Senate, the name also needs to be changed in the contract. This is on the to-do list of the faculty negotiating team and requires no further action by Faculty Senate.

B. The Meaning of Faculty Input

Resolutions by Faculty Senate provide formal input. However, usually the input comes in the form of feedback to an administrator and the provost when they participate in and listen to discussions and comments by faculty after a presentation at Faculty Senate. Sometimes there is feedback to the administration from a committee which meets to consider a particular subject matter.

The meaning of Faculty Input needs to be clarified. Sometimes written feedback would promote clearer communication. Thought needs to be given to when written feedback would be helpful. Further, when is there consensus? If an opinion is expressed during a discussion, the position expressed may not indicate agreement among senators.

For transparency of input, senators should be sure to ask for input from the people they represent. Also Matt Evett as president of Faculty Council and Susan Moeller as president of EMU-AAUP should talk on a regular basis, and, for the rest of the Winter term, Bargaining Council concerns should be a line item on the agenda. If there is nothing to report, this can be noted and Faculty Senate can move on to the next item on the agenda.

C. Domain of the Facilities Committee

Appendix K of the contract is interpreted differently by the EMU-AAUP and the provost. EMU-AAUP interprets the Facilities Committee as being concerned only about safety concerns and temperature and not scheduling. The provost believes that scheduling also is in the domain of the Facilities Committee.

D. Academic Courses Taught by Staff

UNIV 100 and 101 were being taught online by three staff members without the courses first being offered to faculty, even though these are courses for which academic credit is given and which count toward graduation.

Faculty Senate is concerned with academic policies. The Faculty Senate Executive board will write a resolution with respect to these courses. The resolution needs to ensure that creativity will not be stifled. A college-wide doctoral program already exists, and more interdepartmental courses and programs are planned.

E. Pray-Harrold Renovation

There will be four open meetings about the renovation of Pray-Harrold; the exact contents of the meetings are not known.

Faculty who have indicated problems with where he or she is designated to go will receive replies to their concerns soon.

V. Appointment

A. Distinguished Lecturer Committee – Marti Bombyk

Daryl Barton moved and Elaine Martin seconded the appointment of Marti Bombyk to the committee. The vote was unanimous.

B. Facilities Committee

By unanimous vote Joe Scazzero replaces Mary Vielhaber for this term and Ray Lucas replaces Eric Owen, because Eric Owen is the Interim University Librarian.

VI. Eastern energy Committee -- Ted Coutilish

Ted Coutilish has created a committee which he calls Eastern Energy Committee. He would like to have Eboni Miel Zamani-Gallaher as faculty representative on the committee.

Perry Francis moved and Julie Myers seconded that the vote be postponed. The motion passed with 18 senators voting in favor.

Mark Higbee suggested that we ask Ted Coutilish to find a more suitable and communicative name for the committee and that he increases the faculty representation on the committee. The suggestion was endorsed (25 – 0 – 4).

VII. Announcements

A. Website of Faculty Senate and E-mail Address – Matt Evett

Faculty Senate has a website, www.emich.edu/facultysenate, and an e-mail account, faculty_senate@emich.edu, which will forward e-mails.

B. Lessening the Carbon Footprint of EMU

Ethan Lowenstein suggested that we encourage President Martin to commit to lowering the carbon footprint of EMU. There are many faculty with relevant expertise who are motivated to help make this happen.

C. Next Year's International Week – Betsy Morgan

Betsy Morgan is asking for faculty input about next year's International Week. Please go to <http://www.emich.edu/iw/index.html> and provide feedback.

VIII. Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) – Jack Kay

Federal law dictates that each university must create a website which indicates which book is being used in which course. This will involve letting bookstores know the texts on an earlier date. Senators are urged to let colleagues know about this. The date is “practicable,” and some feedback is needed from faculty and bookstores to know what this is. Further it would help if faculty know sooner when a course will go,

because faculty are hesitant to indicate a text for a course which may not go. Moreover, both faculty and the provost would like to know where to report problems.

IX. Creation of Honorary Professorships – Margrit Zinggeler

The Department of World Languages recommends the creation of Honorary Professorships which carry prestige for both EMU and the recipient, are mutually beneficial, and are at no cost to EMU. The proposal passed (27 – 0 – 2) with the addition of a rule which indicates that both EMU and the recipient of the Honorary Professorship may withdraw the designation.

X. External Committee for the Distinguished Faculty Awards Process – Marti Bombyk

The provost together with the Distinguished Faculty Awards Committee recommended that an external committee no longer be used to determine the Distinguish Faculty Awards. The external committee in a matter of hours provided a second opinion while the internal committee carefully studied the applications in detail. The external committee cost money and needed to be composed anew each year. It was hard to find well qualified individuals who were willing to serve. Other chairs of the distinguished Faculty Committee also endorsed this proposal, and it passed (28 – 1 – 0).

XI. Adjournment and Next Meetings

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The dates for the next Faculty Senate meetings are 2/3, 2/17, 3/17, 4/7, 4/21 if necessary, 5/19 (tentative) and 6/16 (tentative).

Respectfully submitted,
Alida Westman

Present: R. Woods (AAS); M. Rahman (ACC); J. Myers (ART); J. Eisenbach (BIO); D. Chou (CIS); S. McCracken (CMTA); M. Evett (COSC); L. Kolopajlo (CHEM); D. Crary (ECON); S. Norton (ENGL); J. Texter (ENGIN TECH); C. Mayda (GEO/GEOL); M. Higbee (HIS/PHIL); S. Levine (HPHP); P. Francis (L & C); J. Nims (LIBRARY); J. Jones (MATH); D. Barton (MKT); W. Zink (MUSIC & DANCE); S. Nelson (NURSING); P. Koehn (PHY/AST); E. Martin (PLS); A. Westman (PSY); R. Orrange (SAC); L. Lee (SPED); C. Haddad (STS); M. Bombyk (SWK); E. Lowenstein (TED); M. Zinggeler (WORLD LANGUAGES)

Ex-Officio: J. Kay (PROVOST)

Guest: S. Moeller (PRESIDENT OF EMU-AAUP); K. Rusiniak (EMU GRIEVANCE OFFICER); T. Brewer (CHAIR OF GRAD COUNCIL); G. Larcom (COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA RELATIONS)

Absent: HEALTH SCI; MGMT; WGST